

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 /081 W

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O 172352Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0505

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

CINCSO CZ IMMEDIATE

CINCLANT POLAD IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2038

E.OM 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: BALAGUER AHEAD IN CALM AND UNINSRING ELECTIONS

REF: SD 2020

1. AT 4 A.M. THIS MORNING MAY 17, THE JUNTA CENTRAL ELECTORAL (JCE) MADE PUBLIC THE FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY AND INCOMPLETE RETURNS FROM YESTERDAY'S ELECTION: BALAGUER 484,571 AND LAJARA BURGOS 89,914. THE JCE HAS WITHOUT EXPLANATION CEASED MAKING THE ELECTION RESULTS KNOWN SINCE THEN.

2. FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE VOTER TURN-OUT HAS BEEN LIGHT AND MAY REPRESENT ONLY ABOUT ONE-HALF OF THE TWO MILLION REGISTERED VOTERS. THIS REPORTED LACK OF VOTER INTEREST WOULD BE ATTRIBUTABLE PRIMARILY TO THE SANTIAGO ACCORD DECISION TO BOYCOTT THE ELECTIONS. OTHER IMPORTANT FACTORS AFFECTING LOW PARTICIPATION WOULD BE THE HEAVY RAINS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY (ESPECIALLY PERTINENT FOR THE RURAL VOTE), BELIEF BY BALAGUER SUPPORTERS THAT THEIR VOTES WERE UNNECESSARY TO INSURE HIS RE-ELECTION, AND DECISION BY THOSE WHO WOULD HAVE VOTED FOR BALAGUER TO MANIFEST THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE SANTIAGO ACCORD THAT SUCH ACTION WAS ALSO
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UNNECESSARY.

3. THE SANTIAGO ACCORD'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, ANTONIO GUZMAN, PUBLICLY ASSERTED LAST NIGHT (MAY 16) THAT A) HE WILL CONTINUE TO REMAIN ACTIVE POLITICALLY, B) THE ACCORD COALITION WILL NOT DISBANDED, AND C) THE GOVERNMENT WHICH TAKES OFFICE ON AUGUST 16 WILL LACK LEGITIMACY. HE ALSO PREDICTED A "WAVE OF OFFICIAL REPRESSION AGAINST THE PEOPLE" AND EXHORTED HIS FOLLOWERS TO OBEY THE LAWS AND ESCHEW VIOLENCE IN ORDER TO AVOID PROVIDING PRETEXT FOR POLICE ACTION AGAINST THEM. GUZMAN LABELLED YESTERDAY'S VOTING AN "ELECTORAL MASQUERADE".

4. THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE OR ANY CIVIL DISORDERS REPORTED DURING THE ACTUAL VOTING YESTERDAY. INDEED, THE CAPITAL'S STREETS WERE VIRTUALLY DESERTED EXCEPT FOR THE PRESENCE OF AN OCCASIONAL MILITARY PATROL. MOREOVER, THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO RPT NO INDICATIONS OF PLANNED OR CONTEMPLATED DISORDERS IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

5. COMMENT: THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS BEEN RE-ELECTED. THE JCE PRELIMINARY COUNT IS BASED PRIMARILY UPON URBAN VOTES AND THE NORMALLY PRO-BALAGUER COUNTRYSIDE HAS YET TO BE HEARD FROM. FURTHER ANALYSIS OF THE ELECTION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR BALAGUER'S NEXT TERM WILL BE FORWARDED WHEN WE RECEIVE MORE DATA FROM THE JCE.
HURWITCH

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